

Your Vote, Your Responsibility

This project consists of two main parts: the *Civic Awareness Expo*, a half day event to be held at participating high schools, and a mock election also held at the high schools.

Civic Awareness Expo

The *Civic Awareness Expo* will be a half-day event held in secondary school auditoriums or multi-purpose rooms that provides information on voting and elections in a cross-curricular, interactive environment. It is requested that the *Expo* be held at least one month prior to the Mock Election. Proposed activities may include:

- Voting machine demonstrations conducted by local election officials, with the opportunity for students to experience how persons with disabilities vote on ADA-compliant machines;
- Forums and “meet and greet” for students to interact with candidates for office;
- Computer stations for students to conduct research on major campaign issues;
- A student debate competition on election issues;
- A “government fair” where students will be invited to create an informational display on an aspect of the electoral process (or other topics related to voting);
- Various informational booths on different aspects of the electoral process, including but not limited to: election laws, serving as a poll worker on Election Day, Census, redistricting, public opinion and media, the Electoral College, voter registration process, the political party system, campaign finance, campaign advertising, voting rights and the Constitution, types of political participation, and other voting and electoral issues.
- An opportunity to “early vote” in the Mock Election in a voting area specifically set aside for this purpose.
- Students will also have the opportunity to request an “absentee ballot” for the Mock Election, which must be returned by a specified time on Mock Election Day.
- Further, students will have the opportunity to register to serve as poll workers and members of the election day tabulation team for the Mock Election.

Nevada Student Mock Election

- The Mock Election Day is an opportunity for students to cast their votes. The schools may choose how they want to set up for the election.
- Students in 12th grade U.S. Government courses will serve as the “local election officials” and administer their school’s Mock Election Day activities. The deadlines and requirements for the Nevada Student Mock Election will mirror those established in Chapter 293 of the Nevada Revised Statutes governing conduct of elections.

Deadlines	Mock Election	General Election
Close of mail-in registration	September 25, 2010	October 2, 2010
Sample ballots mailed	October 4, 2010	October 11, 2010
Close of voter registration	October 5, 2010	October 12, 2010
<i>Expo</i> /Early Voting Events	October 11-22, 2010	October 16-29, 2010
Last day to request absentee ballot	October 19, 2010	October 26, 2010
Last day to submit absentee ballot	October 26, 2010	November 2, 2010
Election Day	October 26, 2010	November 2, 2010

- Duties assigned to the student “Local Election Officials” may include the following:
 1. Circulate a special Mock Election voter registration application to 9th through 12th grade students who wish to participate in the Mock Election;
 2. Create a school-wide voter registration list to keep track of voters registered for the Mock Election;
 3. Designate voting precincts within their jurisdiction, which may include “mailing precincts,” where voters are sent a paper ballot;
 4. Generate an Election Day “pollbook” roster of registered voters prior for voter check-in during early voting and on Mock Election Day;
 5. Design and offer an absentee ballot request form to allow any registered voter in their jurisdiction who wishes to vote by paper ballot in the Mock Election;
 6. Set up polling locations, create signage, and develop a plan to ensure the security and secrecy of the electoral process in their school;
 7. Serve as poll workers on Mock Election Day;
 8. Track and log voters who vote early during the *Civic Awareness Expo*, voters who vote using an absentee ballot, voters who cast their ballots on Mock Election Day, and account for any student voters who may need to cast a provisional ballot in the event that they did not register to vote on time;
 9. Tabulate Mock Election results and voter turnout for their jurisdiction; and
 10. Report school-wide election returns and voter turnout to the State Mock Election Headquarters.

Professional Development for Teachers

A five hour professional development seminar will be available for participating teachers. The first part of the seminar will focus on election administration. Topics include (but are not limited to): election laws, regulations and procedures, duties and responsibilities of election administrators and poll workers, voter registration process, and other election-related topics. Teachers will also receive instruction on best practices for hosting the *Civic Awareness Expo* and administering the school’s Mock Election.

The second part of the seminar will focus on cross-curricular instructional strategies and lessons involving campaigns and elections. Topics include (but are not limited to): election history, voter turnout, Census and redistricting, campaign finance, campaign activities and practices, political ideologies, candidates, history of political parties, one-person/one-vote principles, types of voting, and other election-related topics. The Nevada

Department of Education and the Nevada Secretary of State's office anticipate conducting two professional development seminars for teachers, one in Northern Nevada and one in Southern Nevada.

Your Vote, Your Responsibility Project Steering Committee

- Nicole Lambole, Chief Deputy, Nevada Secretary of State
- Ryan High, HAVA Administrator, Nevada Secretary of State
- Matt Griffin, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections
- Pam DuPre, Public Information Officer, Nevada Secretary of State
- Kimberly Carrubba, HAVA Program Officer, Nevada Secretary of State
- Stephanie Hartman, K-12 Social Studies Coordinator, Nevada Department of Education

Your Vote, Your Responsibility Project Planning Committee

- All members of the Steering Committee listed above
- A representatives from each of Nevada's 17 school districts
 1. Karlye J. Mull – Clark County School District
 2. Sue Davis – Washoe County School District
 3. Scott Guthrie – Elko County School District
- Representative from Nevada's Charter School Association
- University of Nevada Reno
 1. Dr. Margaret Ferrara, College of Education
- Nevada Department of Education
 1. Fredina Drye-Romero, State Indian Education Coordinator
- Representative from League of Women Voters (Northern & Southern chapters)
 1. Juliana Ormsby, Chair, League of Women Voters

Duties of the “Local Election Officials”

- Circulate a special Mock Election voter registration application to 9th through 12th grade students who wish to participate in the Mock Election;
- Create a school-wide voter registration list to keep track of voters registered for the Mock Election;
- Designate voting precincts within their jurisdiction, which may include “mailing precincts,” where voters are sent a paper ballot;
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- Design and offer an absentee ballot request form to allow any registered voter in their jurisdiction who wishes to vote by paper ballot in the Mock Election;
- Set up polling locations, create signage, and develop a plan to ensure the security and secrecy of the electoral process in their school;
- Serve as poll workers on Mock Election Day;
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- Tabulate Mock Election results and voter turnout for their jurisdiction; and
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Timeline with Expectations

MONTH	Project Committee	School Expectations	Teacher Expectations
DEC 09			
JAN 10			
FEB 10		Commit to participate in project (Feb 12, 2010)	
MAR 10			Commit to participate in project (Mar 15, 2010)
APRIL 10			Create initial planning committee (teachers)
MAY 10			Participate in a 5 hour training – offered last week of April, 2010 OR
JUNE 10	Partner with the Youth Legislative Initiative to create a Mock Election ballot		5 hour training - June 14, 2010
AUG 10			Add students to planning committee
SEPT 10		<i>Week of September 25 – October 1, 2010 Civic Awareness Expo held on high school campuses.</i>	<i>Week of September 25 – October 1, 2010 Civic Awareness Expo held on high school campuses.</i>
OCT 10		<i>November 1, 2010 Mock Election</i>	<i>November 1, 2010 Mock Election</i>
NOV 10			
DEC 10			

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Get parents involved!

Civic Awareness Expo: Provide for a ½ day event focusing on the elections process (Sept. 28, 2010)

- Create an assembly schedule to allow for all-school participation in the elections event
- Provide school space to hold the Expo

Mock Election: Hold a school wide Mock Election

- Provide areas for polling places for student voting

TEACHER EXPECTATIONS

1. Participate in one, 5-hour training. Two opportunities will be available: last week in April and June 2010

2. Create a committee of teachers and students to plan and implement the elections events

- Create and maintain a Facebook or MySpace page for the school Mock Election

3. Classroom visits from local election officials (to be set up in partnership with the Project Committee)

4. Civic Awareness Expo: ½ day event focusing on the elections process (Week of Sept. 25 – October 1, 2010)

- Voting demonstrations (including voter boxes provided by SOS)
- Meet the Candidates! (A forum where students can meet the candidates & ask questions)
- The “Issues” of Campaigns (Students have access to computers for researching the campaign issues)
- “Getting the Word Out” (Students create informational displays on the election process, the candidates, and the issues.)
- Nothing Like a Healthy Debate! (Students prepare and debate campaign issues)
- Questions Anyone? (Informational booths about the electoral process such as: election laws, serving as pole workers; role of the US Census, redistricting; public opinion and media; Electoral College; voter registration processes; political party systems; campaign finance; campaign advertising; voting rights and the Constitution; avenues for political participation)

Mock Election: Hold a school wide Mock Election (November 1, 2010)

- Set up polling locations - Designate voting precincts for identified jurisdictions
- Create signage
- Develop a security plan to ensure the secrecy of the school’s electoral process
- Create a school-wide voter registration list
- Generate an Election Day “pollbook” roster

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- Offer an absentee ballot
 - Serve as poll workers
 - Track and log voters who vote early
 - Tabulate Mock Election results and voter turnout
 - Report school-wide election returns
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